

An Introductory Note

One evening in August of 1986 Louis Brill called me to say that a number of people from the defunct San Francisco Suicide Club were getting together to talk about doing some events (the catch word that we used to describe our adventures, projects, and pranks) and ask me if I would like to join them. We met in a coffee house and talked over old times and future plans. If I remember correctly we were: Jean Moshofsky, Sandy Hatch, Sara (Saffron) Jeziorski, Joe Weinstein, John (Pepper) Dowdell, Louis Brill, and myself.

During the meeting it occurred to me that while I liked the idea of getting together again to do some events and perhaps even form a group again, I wanted to avoid some of the problem that I had encountered in the SFSC. In particular I wanted to avoid the clannish exclusivity that had grown up in that group as well as the incestuousness and non-participation that had developed.

Now, I had never done an event in the Suicide Club. I had gone on events and had helped other people, but was mainly a follower. This time I decided to get into the center of things. I went home and the next day and wrote up the attached remarks to present to my friends when we met again in a few days. Originally it had included much detailed criticism of the Suicide Club, but at Sandy's suggestion I cut most of this out and tried to focus attention on positive ideas. My criticisms were discussed with the group but never presented to them in written form. My idea in doing this was to promote some serious, conscious thought about what we were doing rather than just copy the past. To that extent it worked.

While Cacophony

has a resemblance to the SFSC it has succeeded in creating it's own identity and quirky style. If this critique contributed to that then it served it's purpose and that makes me happy.

At the meeting where we discussed these questions, I managed to get myself appointed editor of the newsletter, secretary, and treasurer by sheer force of egotism and bad manners, an attitude that I maintained for the thirteen months of my editorship.

Sandy Hatch helped extensively on the first issue, and Elliot Goliger on the second. Louise Jarmilowicz became the art director and then the second editor, after I resigned. Since then editorship has changed several times when someone else has demanded to participate. Anarchistically, we let them have the whole thing including the key to the cash box.

The copy of the 'rough draft manifesto' that has been attached to this is in the main the same as the one given out in '86. I have cleaned up the spelling to the best of the ability of my typewriter's spell-checker and have put in some short notes and added a few words here and there so it will make better sense to someone who was not in the original group or the SFSC.

Also I have attached a copy of what came out of our discussion of event guidelines. It was given out to subscribers to the newsletter for a number of years and some version of it may still be (hey, so I'm a little out of touch!). It's in large part derived from an earlier page of suggestions written by an SFSC member and which I used with his approval.

Lance Alexander

P.S. The newsletter, and originally the group, was known as "Rough Draft" 'cause when people wanted to know what to call it, Louis overruled all of the lame suggestions and pointed to the apologetic title on the top of the first page.

The name stuck, if only for the newsletter.



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